

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

LALVANI et al.

Atty. Ref.: 3772-22

National Phase of PCT/GB2003/002936

T.C. / Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: December 17, 2004

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

International Filing Date: 07 July 2003

FOR: DIAGNOSTICS METHOD

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

January 5, 2005

Hon. Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and examination of this application, entry and consideration of the following amendments and remarks are respectfully requested.

Amended portions of the **specification** are presented on page 2.

A priority claim and sequence identifiers are added.

The **claims** are presented on pages 3-9.

Claims 3-17, 19 and 24 and 26-28 are amended.

Claims 29-94 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 20-22 and 25 are canceled.

**Remarks** begin on page 10.